

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:



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#1

1. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing the user interface for selection therefrom, comprising:

maintaining information about a sequence of places visited on the computer system, the sequence extending across a plurality of applications;

displaying, along with a display of a first application of the plurality, a first selection mechanism associated with the sequence of places according to the information; and

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the first selection mechanism, navigating to a place in the

sequence that is in a second application of the plurality.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein navigating to a place comprises navigating to a previous place in the sequence.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the first selection mechanism comprises a back button.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
displaying, along with the display of the first application, a  
second selection mechanism associated with the sequence of  
places according to the information, the selection of which  
5 navigates to the next place in the sequence of places.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the second selection  
mechanism comprises a forward button.

10 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the first selection  
mechanism comprises a back button.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
displaying, along with the display of the first  
15 application, a second selection mechanism; and  
in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the  
second selection mechanism, displaying a representation of the  
information about the sequence of places.

20 8. The method of claim 7, wherein displaying the  
representation of the information comprises displaying a  
recent places page comprising, for each of the places, a place  
link associated with the place.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of one  
of the place links, navigating to the place associated with  
5 the one place link.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining information about applications that have been  
displayed on the computer system; and  
10 displaying for each of the applications, according to the  
information about applications, a representation of the  
application.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

15 in response to a signal indicative of a selection of one  
of the representations, taking action with respect to the  
application associated with the representation.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein each of the  
20 representations for each of the applications comprises a  
representation of a place most recently visited by the  
application.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of a representation of a most recently visited place, displaying the most recently visited place in the respective application.

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14. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

in response to a signal indicative of a first selection of one of the representations, displaying the application associated with the representation; and

10 in response to a signal indicative of a second selection of one of the representations, displaying places that have been displayed in the application.

15 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the second selection comprises providing a menu that displays places that have been displayed in the application.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the second selection comprises displaying a recent places page that displays the  
20 places that have been displayed in the application.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
maintaining information about each of the places, the  
information including a reference to page code used to  
implement the place.

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18. The method of claim 1, wherein the information about  
each of the places includes a reference to data that is  
combined with the page code to display the place.

10 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the information  
about each of the places includes view state information for  
the place.

20. A computer-readable medium having computer-  
15 executable instructions for performing the method recited in  
claim 1.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the second  
application includes display information associated therewith,  
20 and further comprising overriding the display information so  
as to display the place in the second application in  
accordance with drawing functions provided by the user  
interface.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein overriding comprises suppressing the display information.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein overriding comprises  
5 rerouting the display information to the drawing functions of the shell component.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein the first application is displayed in a first application window, and wherein  
10 navigating to the place in the second application comprises displaying the place in a second application window that is not the same as the first application window.

25. In a computer system having a graphical user  
15 interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing the user interface for selection therefrom, comprising:

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maintaining information about a sequence of places visited on computer, the sequence extending across at least  
20 two applications;

displaying, along with a display of a first application, a first link associated with the sequence of places according to the information; and

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the first link, displaying a recent places page including a representation of the information about the sequence of places.

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26. The method of claim 25, wherein displaying the representation of the information comprises for each of the places, a place link associated with the place.

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27. The method of claim 26, further comprising:

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of one of the place links, navigating to the place associated with the one place link.

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28. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 25.

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29. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing the user interface for selection therefrom, comprising:

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maintaining information about applications configured to run on the computer system;

displaying for each of the applications, according to the information about applications, a representation corresponding  
5 to the application; and

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of one of the representations, displaying places that have been visited by the application.

10        30. The method of claim 29, wherein each of the representations for each of the applications comprises a representation of a place most recently visited by the application.

15        31. The method of claim 30, further comprising:  
in response to a signal indicative of a selection of a representation of a most recently visited place, displaying the most recently visited place in the respective application.

20        32. The method of claim 29, wherein displaying places that have been visited by the application comprises opening a menu that displays places that have been displayed in the application.



33. The method of claim 29, wherein displaying places that have been visited by the application comprises displaying a recent places page that displays the places that have been displayed in the application.

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34. The method of claim 29, wherein the representations of the applications are displayed on a selection bar.

35. The method of claim 29, wherein the representations  
10 of the applications are displayed on a recent applications page.

36. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in  
15 claim 29.

37. In a computer system, a method of navigating between places that have been visited by the computer system, comprising:

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20 maintaining information about a place, the information including:

a reference to first executable code for displaying the place; and

a reference to a data object that is bound with the  
executable code to display the place;

altering the data object in a second executable code so  
as to form an altered data object; and

5        in response to a request for the place, binding the  
altered data object and the first executable code and  
displaying an altered place.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the information  
10 about the place includes view state information, and wherein  
the altered place is displayed according to the view state  
information.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein the altered data  
15 object includes view state information, and wherein the  
altered place is displayed according to the view state  
information.

40. The method of claim 37, wherein the altered place is  
20 displayed according to a view state registry.

41. The method of claim 37, wherein the reference to the first executable code comprises a pointer to the first executable code.

5        42. The method of claim 37, wherein the reference to the data object comprises a moniker.

10       43. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 37.

44. A computer readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, the data structure comprising:

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15       a first data field comprising a reference to a page code for use in rendering a place that has been visited on a computer system; and

      a second data field comprising a reference to a data object that is bound with the page code to display the place; and;

20       a third data field comprising view state information that selects a view state for a binding of the data object and the executable code.

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45. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing the user interface for selection therefrom, comprising:

- 5        maintaining command information about commands that are available for an application, the command information including textual information about each of the commands;
- providing an option for requesting some of the commands in accordance with the command information;
- 10       in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the option, rendering a command page that displays at least some of the commands; and
- for each of the commands displayed on the command page, displaying the textual description along with the command.

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46. The method of claim 45, further comprising:

         maintaining user prior history information about the commands; and

- displaying the commands on the command page in accordance
- 20 with the prior history information.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein displaying the commands on the command page in accordance with the prior history information comprises bubbling selected commands to selected locations on the command page.

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48. The method of claim 45, wherein displaying at least some of the commands comprises displaying a link to a subset of the commands.

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49. The method of claim 45, further comprising:

maintaining information about scopes available within the particular context;

providing a scope selector with a plurality of scope selections; and

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in response to a signal indicating selection of one of the selections, providing the commands on the command page in accordance with the information about scopes.

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50. The method of claim 45, wherein the at least some commands are displayed in accordance with a context in which the option is selected.

51. The method of claim 45, wherein the commands that are displayed are restricted by a filter.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein the filter comprises  
5 a textual search.

53. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 45.

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54. In a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing the user interface for selection therefrom, comprising:

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15 maintaining command information about commands that are available for an application, the command information including grouping information about the commands;

providing an option for requesting some of the commands in accordance with the command information;

20 in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the option, rendering a command page that displays at least some of the commands and a link to a group of the commands.

55. The method of claim 54, further comprising:  
maintaining user prior history information about the  
commands; and

displaying the commands on the command page in accordance  
5 with the prior history information.

56. The method of claim 55, wherein displaying the  
commands on the command page in accordance with the prior  
history information comprises bubbling selected commands to  
10 selected locations on the command page.

57. The method of claim 54, wherein displaying at least  
some of the commands further comprises displaying textual  
information about the at least some commands.

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58. The method of claim 54, further comprising:  
maintaining information about scopes available within the  
particular context;

providing a scope selector with a plurality of scope  
20 selections; and

in response to a signal indicating selection of one of  
the selections, providing the commands on the command page in  
accordance with the information about scopes.

59. The method of claim 54, wherein the at least some commands are displayed in accordance with a context in which the option is selected.

5        60. The method of claim 54, wherein the commands that are displayed are restricted by a filter.

61. The method of claim 60, wherein the filter comprises a textual search.

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62. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 54.

15        63. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, the data structure comprising:

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        a first data field comprising command information about a command; and

        a second data field associated with the command  
20 information comprising information corresponding to a description of the command, the description capable of being sensed by a user.



64. The computer-readable medium of claim 63, wherein the command information comprises a short name for the command.

5        65. The computer-readable medium of claim 64, further comprising a third data field associated with the command information comprising information corresponding to terms that are descriptive of the command and are capable of being found by a search.

10        66. The computer-readable medium of claim 63, wherein the description of the command comprises a textual description of the functions of the command.

15        67. A computer readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, the data structure comprising:

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        a first data field comprising command information about a command; and

        a second data field associated with the command  
20 information comprising information corresponding to terms that are descriptive of the command and are capable of being found by a search.

68. The computer-readable medium of claim 67, wherein the command information comprises a short name for the command.

5        69. The computer-readable medium of claim 67, further comprising a third data field associated with the command information comprising information corresponding to a description of the command, the description capable of being sensed by a user.

10        70. In a computer system having a user interface, a system for rendering a page on the user interface, comprising:

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a data object corresponding to the page;

page code corresponding to the page;

15        view state information corresponding to the page;

a data structure corresponding to the page and including references that bind the page code, the view state information and the data object to each other;

20        a retrieval mechanism, the retrieval mechanism configured to access the data object, the page code and the view state information; and

an interpreter, the interpreter connected to the retrieval mechanism and configured to render the page in

accordance with the data object, the page code and the view state information.

71. The system of claim 70, wherein the data object  
5 includes a second set of view state information, and further comprising a selection mechanism for determining view state information to use.